



Society of African Missions

“The Mission”

23 Bliss Avenue
 Tenafly, NJ 07670
 Phone: 201-567-0450
 Visit our website
www.smafathers.org



Mass Schedule

Sundays

10:00 am; 12 noon

Weekdays & Holy Days

9:30 am & 11:45 am

Confessions Saturdays:

After 11:45am Mass.

Or by appointment.

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. Austin Ochu

201-567-0450 Ext. 225

Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday
 from 9:30am to 3:00pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr Dermot Roache, SMA

Director

201-567-0450 Ext. 253

S.M.A. Museum

Open Monday-Sunday from
 9:00am –5:00pm

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Sunday Collection: \$1,127

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
 your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan, SMA

Provincial Superior

Fr Austin Ochu, SMA

House Superior

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Masses for the week of SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 – SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Sept. 1	10:00	Jane Ross (Liv.)	
	12:00	Special Intentions of Eric Saner	Victoria Costa
Mon. Sept. 2	9:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Louise Coull
	11:45	Sheamus Feeney+	Mary Quinn & Family
Tue. Sept. 3	9:30	Carl Clemente+	Cristina Ragas
	11:45	Deceased Loved Ones	
Wed. Sept. 4	9:30	Sean McCabe+	Sister-In-Law
	11:45	Benedict & Anthony Walsh+	Breda Walsh
Thurs. Sept. 5	9:30	Lilia R. Tocker+	Friend
	11:45	Tony O’Mullaney (Liv.)	Cogan Family
Fri. Sept. 6	9:30	Neill & Forgrave Family (Spec. Intentions)	
	11:45	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Costa
Sat. Sept. 7	9:30	Special Intentions of Chris Ulshoeser	Maria Cutro
	11:45	Helen Costa+	Victoria Costa

Today’s Readings:

First reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8 – Moses tells the Israelites to observe the commandments that God gave them.

Second reading: James 1:17-18. 21-22. 27 – We are called to authenticity, putting God’s word into practice in our lives.

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23 – We are again called to authenticity, not to an external following of legalistic minutiae which look good but are irrelevant to our spiritual growth.



“Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.

Illustration

Have you ever been hippo hunting? A group of school leavers, enjoying a weekend retreat, were sent out into a small Surrey town in search of hippos, instructed to report back to base later that afternoon. Hippos are rarely (if ever) seen in the Guildford area. Undeterred and excited by their unusual mission, the youngsters set off in high spirits, unaware that their group leader had planned the unlikely exercise as a way of encouraging them to communicate with strangers. In small groups of no more than four, the boys and girls asked passers-by if they had seen a hippo. Some adults, feeling threatened, told the youngsters not to be so foolish and quickly moved away from imagined harm. Others laughed and continued their business, choosing not to engage in conversation. Others embraced the spirit of the game. Wild tales abounded of marauding hippos, some the size of elephants, charging along the A3, bumping into market stalls and shop windows, sticking their heads into vegetable gardens or just grazing peacefully in nearby fields. When the youngsters reported back, their hippo hunting excursion proved to have offered important lessons. In communicating with strangers, they discovered that some of the most unlikely characters possessed humour, wit, imagination and an ability to tell a good story. Some youngsters felt confused because a few people were afraid of them and half-expected to suffer because of their encounter. Importantly, the local townsfolk who took part in the game rediscovered, for a few moments, the meaning of youth, fun and laughter.

Gospel teaching

The scribes and Pharisees criticised Jesus for not being as particular as they were about washing their hands before eating. The Jewish Law was and is specific about ritual purity – but if there was no water available for handwashing, did the scribes and Pharisees choose to starve or did they make excuses for themselves and eat?

Their legalism extended to people's relationships so that somebody could refuse to care for elderly parents by saying that the resources which should have been used on their behalf were dedicated to the Temple instead. In following the tiny details of the law which had been written by human hands, the scribes and Pharisees sometimes neglected the law of love which God had written on human hearts. Jesus did not say that it was wrong to support the Temple or to wash one's hands before a meal. Instead, he invited his listeners to see things differently. He condemned, not the Law, but the legalism which killed its spirit and denied justice to those who needed it. What is the point of handwashing if it is accompanied by greed and waste? Why support good causes if someone can't be bothered to visit their parents to check on their wellbeing? Jesus challenged his listeners to identify their priorities and their motivations underlying their actions. Life isn't about looking good but about being good.

Application

How often do we, as adults, accompany young people on a hippo hunting expedition or its equivalent? As an adult it is all too easy to forget to play. It was so easy as a child, when something as simple as a chair placed back-to-front became a horse, a car, a train... A spoon was a catapult, a spade, a key... With a little imagination, for most children, the world is a place of wonder and excitement. It can be a universe in which every day is a new adventure, filled with the love and security that allows a certain amount of risk-taking. How many of us, blind to potential dangers, climbed walls and trees that, years later, cause us to gasp in amazement that we were either so brave or so foolhardy? On the other hand, how many of us would like to offer our accumulated wisdom and experience to youngsters but are reluctant, holding back because we don't want to trample on their enthusiasm? We want them to learn by their mistakes, but there is a point at which they will not find their way without our help. We are never too old to play, never too young to benefit from the wisdom of others.

Living the Word

HAPPY AND BLESSED LABOR DAY TO ALL OF YOU!